

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

(ISO) W

-----098803 030435Z /62

R 021500Z MAR 78

FM AMCONSUL PALERMO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2402

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS IN SICILIAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT CRISIS

BEGIN SUMMARY. SOLUTION TO THE SICILIAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT CRISIS STILL IN DISTANCE WITH FURTHER SLIPPAGE IN EFFORTS TO AGREE ON PROGRAM AND ON NEW REGIONAL ASSESSORS. WITH ALL PARTIES OPERATING UNDER CLOSE REINS FROM NATIONAL PARTY HEADQUARTERS, ISSUE IS ONE OF MARKING TIME LOCALLY PENDING CLEARER SIGNALS ON FUTURE FROM ROME. END SUMMARY

1. ON FEBRUARY 22, DC SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI SUMMONED TO ROME SICILIAN REGIONAL PRESIDENT MATTARELLA (MOROTEO) AND PARTY REGIONAL SECRETARY NICOLETTI (FORZE NUOVE). THE MEETING, WHICH REPORTEDLY INCLUDED DC REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER "CRISIS" REGIONS, WAS INTERPRETED LOCALLY AS A CONCERTED PARTY EFFORT TO DECELERATE MOVEMENT AT THE PERIPHERY TOWARD NEW FORMS OF DC-PCI COLLABORATION THAT MIGHT COMPROMISE DC OPTIONS NATIONALLY. PRESS AND OTHER LOCAL SOURCES SUGGEST ZACCAGNINI CALLED MEETING AT INSISTENCE OF GIOVANNI GIOIA (FANFANIANO), DONAT CATTIN AND SCALIA OF FORZE NUOVE AND, WITH SOMEWHAT LESS PRESSURE, BY MOD RUFFINI.

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2. IN RESPONSE TO DC SLOW-DOWN, LOCAL PCI ON FEBRUARY 24 ABANDONED SIX-PARTY TALKS TO DEFINE THE NEW REGIONAL GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM CHARGING THAT THE TALKS SO FAR HAD DEALT ONLY WITH NON-SUBSTANTIVE MINUTIA. PCI HAS BEEN CAREFUL TO BURN NO BRIDGES, HOWEVER, AND HAS MADE MORE FAVORABLE COMMENTS IN PAST TWO DAYS ABOUT MATTARELLA'S

EFFORTS AT PROGRAM-DRAFTING. SIMILARLY, PCI AGREED ON FEBRUARY 28 TO FURTHER SLIPPAGE IN ELECTION OF REGIONAL ASSESSORS NOW POSTPONED UNTIL MARCH 14. SIMPLE FACT IS THAT NO ONE HERE IS PREPARED TO DO THINGS AT LOCAL LEVEL THAT WOULD BE SHARPLY OUT OF PHASE WITH ROME.

3. FOR THE RECORD, LARGEST REMAINING BONES OF LOCAL CONTENTION ARE POWERS AND PREROGATIVES TO BE ASSIGNED TO A SIX-PARTY "PLANNING COMMITTEE" TO OVERSEE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT AND WHICH WOULD GIVE THE PCI THE SAME ROLE LOCALLY THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A COMMITTEE WOULD PROVIDE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. SECOND MAIN ISSUE IS DECENTRALIZATION OF REGIONAL FUNCTIONS AND FINANCES TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. THIRD PROBLEM FOR PROSPECTIVE CENTER-LEFT GIUNTA PARTIES IS HIGHLY IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT OF ASSESSORATES AND WHETHER PCI SHOULD HAVE EXTERNAL "DROIT DE REGARD" OVER WHO, FROM WHAT PARTY, GETS WHAT JOB. COMPLICATING THIS PROBLEM ARE USUAL INTERNECINE SQUABBLES WITHIN DC AND RECENT PRE-CONGRESS BEHAVIOR OF PSI WHICH HAS FEATURED UNEXPECTED SHIFTS TOWARD CRAXI AT THE EXPENSE OF THE TRADITIONAL "DEMARTINIANO" LEADERSHIP IN SICILY OF SALVATORE LAURICELLA.

4. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, RUMOR IS CURRENTLY GOING LOCAL ROUNDS TO THE EFFECT THAT ITALIANS WILL NOT SOLVE NATIONAL CRISIS UNTIL AFTER FRENCH ELECTIONS, SINCE SOLUTION EITHER WAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN ITALY COULD HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECT ON FRENCH OUTCOME.
COLLINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 02 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PALERM00216
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780096-1136
Format: TEL
From: PALERMO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803114/aaaadteu.tel
Line Count: 96
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3141146
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEVELOPMENTS IN SICILIAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT CRISIS BEGIN SUMMARY. SOLUTION TO THE SICILIAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT CRISIS STILL IN DISTANCE WITH FURTHER S
TAGS: PINT, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1fdcbab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014